

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 13, 2015

Members Present: Jim Zajkowski, Craig Kittel, and Ron Volkert

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Darrow, Tom Rickard, Bryan Knudtson, Nate Fisher, Mike Foley, and Jeanne Bergman

Craig Kittel moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Ron Volkert, and carried.

Craig Kittel moved to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2015 meeting, seconded by Ron Volkert, and carried.

**Old Business**

**Sidewalk Construction/Repair Policy**

Staff is proposing an amendment to the Sidewalk Construction/Repair Ordinance. Key points include:

- Costs of new and replacement sidewalk would be split between the City and the adjacent property owner
- Assessments could be repaid in one lump sum, or over a set time period (up to ten years) with an interest rate to be determined by the City. (Interest rate is typically 1% above the City's borrowing rate.)
- A plan for sidewalk construction and replacement would be developed annually by the Public Works Committee and submitted to the Common Council for approval
- Multi-use trails are not included in the policy, as staff did not find this to be standard practice

Craig Kittel moved to approve the amendment to the ordinance, seconded by Jim Zajkowski, and carried.

This recommendation will now go to the next City Council work session

**Dakota Avenue Bike Route**

Several business owners along North Dakota Avenue were in attendance with alternative suggestions to the "No Parking" currently proposed along this street. Discussion took place on the following topics:

- The amount of industrial truck traffic on North Dakota Avenue
- Allowing shared travel lanes for bikes and vehicles on North Dakota Avenue to North 5<sup>th</sup> Street
- Creating a dedicated bike lane from North 5<sup>th</sup> Street to West North Shore Drive
- Allowing parking on one side of the street vs "No Parking" on either side of the street
- Creating a dedicated bike lane on one side of street with parking on the other side of the street
- The possibility of a bike route in the location of the old railroad bed that runs parallel with North Knowles Avenue
- The possibility of using a portion of the *North 4<sup>th</sup> Improvement Project Grant* to help fund the bike route if it is placed in the old railroad bed

Committee members will walk the old railroad bed to see if this area is a viable option for the bike route. Jim Zajkowski moved to table this item and bring the entire plan back to the next meeting, seconded by Craig Kittel, and carried.

**New Business**

**Compost Site**

Last year was the first year the City went with an unstaffed compost site. Discussion followed on if we should continue with this practice, who commonly uses the site, and if we should charge businesses if they use the

site. The consensus of the committee was to continue operating the compost site as is and to charge only if we hire someone to staff the site.

### **Parking/Curb Modifications at Library**

Staff is recommending modifications to the sidewalks and curb/gutter which is adjacent to the library which would accomplish the following:

- Replace concrete panels at the existing handicapped parking space to maintain ADA compliance
- Create one additional handicapped parking space
- Replace the sidewalk to First Street with a handicapped parking space to maintain ADA compliance

Craig Kittel moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Ron Volkert, and carried.

### **Children at Play Sign**

A resident has requested a “Children at Play” sign on Cypress Trail. The DOT does not recommend using these types of signs as it gives a false sense of security to parents, the signs are not enforceable, and they create a liability issue for the City. Alternate ideas suggested included utilizing more police presence including the use of radar trailer and to encourage homeowners to purchase signs or devices sold at hardware stores that announce children are in the area. Craig Kittel moved to deny the request at this time, unless it pertains to a special needs child, seconded by Ron Volkert, and carried.

### **Alley Between Knowles and Minnesota**

The Electric Department recently removed 325 sq. ft. of pavement in the alley between Knowles and Minnesota Avenue. Staff is looking for direction to either patch the area at a cost of \$1,000 or to repave the City-owned portion of the alley at a cost of \$15,000. The committee is recommending to not repave the alley at this time because of the expense, the fact that maintenance was recently performed in this area, (spray patching done last fall), and because this project is not part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Jeremiah Wendt, Public Works Director, will be asked to look into the cost of a possible overlay.

### **Temporary Driveway to Access County/ESR Building**

There is a need for a temporary driveway to the ESR Building due to the construction of the new St. Croix County Nursing home. The temporary driveway will be removed once the construction period is finished. Jim Zajkowski moved to allow the temporary driveway, to the County ESR facility, seconded by Craig Kittel, and carried. This will now go to the City Council for their approval.

### **Downtown Wayfinding Proposal**

Two years ago, as part of the Small Area Study, a survey was done on downtown signage and parking. The City has 539 available parking spots and it was determined that most people do not know where these parking areas are. Mike Darrow presented a slide show of different sign options to direct people to these parking areas and to highlight awareness of these locations. Staff would like to move forward with the wayfinding signage by obtaining detailed examples, collecting costs, and determining locations. Jim Zajkowski moved to proceed with the signage concept, seconded by Craig Kittel and carried. The next steps will include presenting the concept to the EDC subcommittee and at the next City Council work session

### **Communication and Miscellaneous**

None

Craig Kittel moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Zajkowski, and carried.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Bergman